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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 22 MAY 50

SUBJECT Confiscation of Food and "Free Markets"

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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## SOURCE

1. In recent months food staples have not been available in the markets of Bucharest. The population found it necessary to purchase food at the so-called "free markets" which functioned near each of the markets of the capital. These "free markets" have not been authorized for the provinces.
2. Shortly before Easter, which the Rumanian Government renamed "Festival of Spring", the authorities ordered the merchants of the "free markets" to stock up in order that the population could supply itself for the holidays. This order was issued on 25 March and the merchants thereupon brought stocks of food staples into the capital.
3. During the morning of 28 March, when the markets were full of customers, they were surrounded by heavily armed Militiamen. Members of the Economic Police and the Militia confiscated all food products in the market, all money belonging to the merchants and their entire equipment. Merchants who resisted the seizure were arrested. At the Obor market approximately 192,000 kilograms of food were confiscated. At the present time there are five markets as large as Obor and fifteen of smaller size in Bucharest.

This document is hereby regraded to  
 CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the  
 letter of 16 October 1978 from the  
 Director of Central Intelligence to the  
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